

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC MEETING: September 30, 2009 at the Old Beale Memorial Baptist Church at Courthouse Square, 202 Church Lane (at the corner of Church and Queen St) in Tappahannock, VA. An afternoon public meeting will be held from 2-4pm and the evening public meeting from 6-8pm. Parking is across the street from the church.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing a study to restore water quality for a shellfish growing area, a public comment opportunity, and two public meetings.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: First public meetings on a study to restore water quality for shellfish growing areas of the Rappahannock River near Tappahannock, Garret's Marina, and Mark Haven Beach which are impaired due to bacterial violations.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of the bacterial contamination in the shellfish growing waters of these (tidal) Creeks including their tributaries. These condemnations include a total area of approximately 9.7 square miles in portions of Essex, Richmond, Westmoreland, and Northumberland Counties. These streams are impaired for failure to meet the designated use of shellfish consumption because of bacterial water quality standard violations.

| Stream | Counties Within Watershed | Area (miles ²) | Impairment |
|---|---|----------------------------|--|
| Upper Rappahannock River, Little Carter Creek, Jugs Creek | Essex, Richmond, Westmoreland, Northumberland | 9.73 | Shellfish Use (Fecal Coliform) bacteria |
| Mark Haven Beach | Essex | 0.014 | |
| Garret's Marina | Essex | 0.029 | |

The study reports the current status of the Creeks via sampling performed by the Virginia Department of Health - Division of Shellfish Sanitation, shellfish area condemnations and the possible sources of bacterial contamination. The study recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by

DEQ during the comment period, which will expire on October 29, 2009. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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